

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09

DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01 TRSE-00

H-01 INR-10 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 /158 W

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R 151528Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRAIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0147

INFO AMEMBASSY BANJUL POUCH

AMEMBASSY BISSAU POUCH

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR POUCH

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

SECDEF WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAIA 0182

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, EWWT, MARR, MASS, PARM, PBOR, PLOS, CV

SUBJECT: ABILITY OF CAPE VERDE TO PATROL OFFSHORE FISHERIES

REF: STATE 090967

1. RESPONSES KEYED TO SUBPARAGRAPHS OF REFTEL REFLECT:

A) GOCV PLACES GREAT HOPES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF FISHING INDUSTRY. EXPORTS OF CHILLED FROZEN AND CANNED FISH ACCOUNTED LAST YEAR FOR SIXTY-EIGHT (68) PERCENT OF EXPORT EARNINGS. IN ADDITION FISH CATCH IS PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF PROTEIN FOR POPULATION OF THE ISLANDS ESPECIALLY AS MEAT IS INCREASINGLY CONFIDENTIAL

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UNAVAILABLE.

B) THE WATERS SURROUNDING CAPE VERDE ARE BLESSED WITH A GOOD SUPPLY OF YELLOWTAIL AND BLUETAIL TUNA, BARRACUDA, HADDOCK, HORSE MACKAREL AND GROUPER. A VERY SUBSTANTIAL SUPPLY OF SPINY LOBSTER ALSO EXISTS. CAPEVERDEAN OFFICIAL ESTIMATES THAT THE CATCH OF FISH OFF THE ISLANDS CAN BE QUADRUPLED. GOCV HAS LONG

RANGE PLANS TO INVEST U.S. 80 MILLION IN FISHING INDUSTRY.

C) THE GOCV ATTEMPTS TO REGULATE OFFSHORE FISHING THROUGH BILATERAL EFFORTS. AT PRESENT CAPE VERDE HAS NO RPT NO ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITY. CAPE VERDE IS WILLING TO ENTER INTO BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH NATIONS SEEKING TO FISH WITHIN THE 200 MILE LIMIT.

D) POACHING OCCURS AND REDUCES CATCH OF LOBSTER IN PARTICULAR BY PERHAPS TWENTY PERCENT. POACHING APPEARS TO BE ON THE INCREASE.

E) CAPEVERDEAN OFFICIALS INDICATE THAT THE FISHING FLEETS OF FRANCE, JAPAN AND THE SOVIET UNION FREQUENTLY POACH IN CAPEVERDEAN WATERS. THE FRENCH FLEET OFTEN COMES TO WITHIN TWENTY MILES, OR LESS, OF BRAVA AND FOGO ISLANDS IN SEARCH OF LOBSTER. PORTUGUESE VESSELS HAVE PERMISSION TO FISH IN CAPEVERDEAN WATERS ALTHOUGH APPARENTLY RARELY DO SO.

F) CAPE VERDE CLAIMS TWO HUNDRED (200) MILES TERRITORIAL WATERS. THE DEGREE/LAW EXTENDING CAPEVERDEAN WATERS FROM TWELVE (12) TO TWO HUNDRED (200) MILES ESTABLISHES STIFF FINES FOR POACHING.

G) ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS RUSSIAN, FRENCH AND JAPANESE FLEETS HAVE BEEN DETECTED POACHING IN CAPEVERDEAN WATERS. IN ONE CASE A RUSSIAN VESSEL WAS ACTUALLY APPREHENDED BY A CAPEVERDEAN
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CARGO VESSEL AND TAKEN TO THE PORT OF MINDELO. AFTER A FEW HOURS THE SHIP WAS RELEASED WITHOUT A FINE. THE CAPEVERDEANS ARE CLEARLY ANNOYED BY POACHING BUT SEEM RELUCTANT TO IMPOSE PENALTIES ON VIOLATORS.

2. THE GOCV HAS RECENTLY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH GREAT BRITAIN AND BRAZIL CONCERNING THE PURCHASE OF AIRCRAFT DESIGNED TO PATROL CAPE VERDE'S TERRITORIAL WATERS. GREAT BRITAIN SENT A HS748 TO CAPE VERDE IN LATE APRIL TO CARRY OUT DEMONSTRATIONS. BRAZIL HAS INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO DISPATCH AIRCRAFT TO CAPE VERDE FOR THE SAME PURPOSE. THE GOCV WILL MOST LIKELY BUY AT LEAST ONE (1) HS748 FROM GREAT BRITAIN.

3. AS CAPE VERDE EXPANDS AND MODERNIZES ITS FISHING FLEET THE PROBLEM OF ENFORCING ITS TERRITORIAL WATERS WILL BECOME MORE IMPORTANT. THE CAPEVERDEANS ARE ALREADY ACUTELY AWARE OF THE GUINEA-BISSAU EXPERIENCE WITH THE SOVIET FISHING FLEET AND WISH TO AVOID PROBLEMS OF THIS SORT. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE CAPEVERDEANS ARE AWARE THAT FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE THEY ALONE CANNOT CONTROL THEIR WATERS. FOR THIS REASON THE GOCV WOULD LIKELY RESPOND FAVORABLY TO A PROPOSAL TO COOPERATE WITH OTHER WEST AFRICAN STATES IN THE POLICING OF TERRITORIAL

WATERS.
MCGOWAN

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